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ACTION ARA-16

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
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R 251346Z AUG 80

FM AMEMPASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4480

INFO AMEMPASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMPASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMPASSY NASSAU

AMEMPASSY PORT OF SPAIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 6282

E.O.12065: GDS 8/22/80 (LAWRENCE LOREN) OR-M

TAGS: PINS, PINT, JM

SUBJECT: THE PNP VERSUS THE SECURITY FORCES

1. (C) SUMMARY: AFTER A MONTH LONG SERIES OF JLP/PNP PLEDGES TO STOP THE VIOLENCE THAT HAS CHARACTERIZED THE PRE-ELECTION PERIOD, THE PNP IS NOW MOUNTING AN ATTACK AGAINST THE SECURITY FORCES FOR ALLEGED ABUSE OF ITS POWERS. IN A RELATED MOVE, THE SUPPRESSION OF CRIMES ACT, WHICH GIVES THE SECURITY FORCES EXPANDED POWERS. WAS LIMITED ON AUGUST 19 TO 21 DAY EXTENSION AND INSUFFICIENT PERIOD TO COVER THE EXPECTED MID OCTOBER ELECTIONS. THE PNP MAY BE EMBARRASSED BY THE NUMBER OF SUCCESSFUL SEARCHES CARRIED OUT IN PNP CONSTITUENCY OFFICES AND MAY ALSO BE HOPING TO SECURE THE SUPPORT OF JAMAICA'S URBAN POOR, THOSE MOST AFFECTED BY JCF AND JDF ACTIONS END SUMMARY.

2. (U) A POLITICAL BROUHAHA BETWEEN THE PNP AND THE SECURITY FORCES BEGAN TO DEVELOP LAST WEEKEND. PRIME MINISTER MANLEY ALLUDED TO ABUSES IN SECURITY FORCES

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IN HIS PNP RALLY SPEECH ON AUGUST 17 COMMEMORATING THE 93RD ANNIVERSARY OF MARCUS GARVEY'S BIRTH. AND PARTY SECRETARY D.K. DUNCAN ANNOUNCED IN A PRESS RELEASE THAT THE PNP NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL WOULD BEGIN TO MONITOR THE SECURITY FORCES' ACTIONS.

3(U) ON TUESDAY AUGUST 19, THE PNP USED THE DEBATE IN PARLIAMENT ON EXTENDING THE SUPPRESSION OF CRIME ACT (SPECIAL PROVISIONS) TO INCREASE THE ATTACK. DURING THE SIX AND ONE HALF HOUR DEBATE, NINE GOVERNMENT MEMBERS, INCLUDING SEVERAL OF THE RADICALS, PROVIDED GRAPHIC DESCRIPTION OF THE ALLEGED HUMILIATING ACTIONS AND ATROCITIES PERPETRATED BY INDIVIDUALS IN THE JAMAICA CONSTABULARY FORCE (JCF) AND JAMAICA DEFENSE FORCE (JDF) WHILE CONCEDED THAT ONLY A FEW MEMBERS OF THE FORCES

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WERE INVOLVED THE MPS LEARNED THE FACT THAT THE
ABUSES APPARENTLY WERE TOLERATED AND THAT THE VICTIMS
WERE THE POOR AND BLACK.

4. (U) THREE JAMAICA LABOR PARTY (JLP) MEMBERS, REBUTED
THE VERBAL ASSULT DURING THE DEBATE STATING THAT A
"FEW BAD EGGS" IN THE JCF AND JDF PROVIDED POOR JUSTIFI-
CATION FOR CRITICIZING THE ENTIRE GROUP. OPPOSITION
LEADER EDWARD SEAGA WEIGHTED IN WITH HIS OWN DENUNCIATION
OF THE PNP'S ATTITUDE, RECALLING ALL THE INCIDENTS IN
WHICH JDF/JCF ACTIONS HAD EMBARRASSED PNP MEMBERS.
JDF COMMANDER BRIGADIER ROBERT NEISH, IN A SPEECH ON
AUGUST 20, STATED THAT ALL COMPLAINTS WERE INVESTIGATED
AND THAT WRONG DOERS HAD BEEN DEALT WITH "VERY FIRMLY".
5. (C) THE UPSHOT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE OVER THE
SUPPRESSION OF CRIME ACT WAS LIMITED EXTENSION OF ONLY
21 DAYS NOT THE EXPECTED 60 DAY EXTENSION WHICH WOULD

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HAVE COVERED THE ANTICIPATED ELECTION PERIOD IN MID
OCTOBER AS HOUSE SPEAKER RIPTON MCPHERSON TOLD THE
EMBASSY. THE ACT AUTHORIZES THE JDF FORCES TO WORK
WITH THE POLICE, PERMITS ARREST ON SUSPICION ALONE, AND
ALLOWS DETENTION OF SUSPECTS WITHOUT FORMAL CHARGES FOR
48 HOURS. WITHOUT THESE POWERS, THE SECURITY FORCES
WOULD BE SEVERELY HAMPERED IN STEMMING THE VIOLENCE
WHICH HA ALREADY CHARACTERIZED THIS PRE ELECTION PERIOD.
6. (C) COMMENT: AFTER A MONTH LONG SPATE OF JLP/PNP
PEACE PACTS AND ANTI CRIME ACTIVITIES, THE PNP VERBAL
ASSAULT ON THE SECURITY FORCES IS CURIOUS BUT PROBABLY
WAS PROMPTED BY SECURITY FORCES DISCOVERIES OF SOME
ILLICIT WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION IN PNP CONSTITUENCY
OFFICES AND NOT IN JLP OFFICES. MOREOVER BY ATTACK
IN THE POLICE AND MILITARY, THE PNP MAY BE HOPING TO
SCORE POINTS AMONG THE GHETTO DWELLERS, THOSE MOST
DIRECTLY AFFECTED BY THEIR ACTIONS. BY EXTENDING THE
ACT ONLY TO SEPTEMBER 9 THE PNP HAS KEPT OPEN THE
OPTION TO USE AGAIN THE PARLIAMENTARY FORUM TO
LAMBASTE THE SECURITY FORCES OF PERCEIVED MISDEEDS. END COMMENTS.

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